

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NRC-05 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01
PRS-01 /109 W

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R 121741Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7195
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USEEC

DEPARTMENT PASS NRC AND ERDA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, ENRG, UK
SUBJECT: WINDSCALE INQUIRY HEARS GOVERNMENT WITNESSES

1. ON THURSDAY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY REVEALED ITS HAND IN THE INQUIRY REGARDING A PROPOSED RE-PROCESSING PLANT AT WINDSCALE BY FIELDING TWO WITNESSES WHOSE EVIDENCE SEEMED TO SHOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT WANTS THE PLANT TO GO AHEAD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND REFLECTED ANXIETY THE OPTION OF GOING IN FOR FAST REACTORS WOULD BE CLOSED IF IT DOES NOT. THE PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WITNESS WAS CHRIS HERZIG, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ATOMIC ENERGY DIVISION. HE ATTEMPTED TO DEAL WITH THE SUGGESTIONS THAT HAD BEEN MADE AT THE INQUIRY THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE PLANT FOR SOME YEARS AND THAT IF IT WERE DELAYED THIS WOULD NOT CLOSE THE OPTION OF GOING AHEAD WITH FAST REACTORS. HE SAID THERE WERE OTHER

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CONSIDERATIONS WHICH ARGUED AGAINST THE DELAYED START: THE TIME REQUIRED TO BUILD A REPROCESSING PLANT AND THE NEED TO MAINTAIN EXPERIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. A GUARDIAN STORY SAYS THAT CONSERVATION GROUPS FEAR THAT THE DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO GO AHEAD

IN THE MINDS OF A LOT OF PEOPLE INSIDE THE CIVIL SERVICE.
WALTER PATTERSON OF FRIENDS OF THE EARTH SAID OUTSIDE
THE INQUIRY HALL: "WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THE JUDGMENT
FROM THE TRIBUNAL WILL MAKE THEM STOP AND THINK AGAIN".

3. THE FEARS REFERRED TO SEEM TO HAVE SOME BASIS. IT
IS NOT JUST THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY BUT ALSO THE CEGB
WHICH HAS PRESENTED EVIDENTLY IMPRESSIVE EVIDENCE IN
FAVOR OF GOING AHEAD. ONE VERY EXPERIENCED SCIENTIFIC
JOURNALIST THINKS THAT THE BEHAVIOR OF THE JUDGE CON-
DUCTING THE INQUIRY WHO SEEMS TO BE AVOIDING VERY BROAD
ISSUES OF PROLIFERATION INDICATES THAT A DECISION WILL
BE BASED LARGELY ON ECONOMIC CRITERIA AND THAT SUCH
CRITERIA DICTATED AN EARLY GO AHEAD. HOWEVER, WHILE
THE CASE FORPROCEEDING IS NOW LARGELY COMPLETE, THE
OPPOSITION WILL NOW HAVE ITS INNINGS AND THE INQUIRY
WILL RUN FOR MANY WEEKS TO COME.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, NUCLEAR REACTORS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Format: TEL
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